

# PLA

**PLA'YDEBT.** *n. f.* [play and debt.] Debt contracted by gaming. There are multitudes of leases upon single lives, and play-debts upon joint lives. *Arbutnot.*  
**PLA'YER.** *n. f.* [from play.] One who plays.  
 1. One who plays.  
 2. An idler; a lazy person.  
 You're pictures out of doors,  
 Saints in your injuries, devils being offended,  
 Players in your housewifery. *Shakespeare's Othello.*  
 3. Actor of dramatick scenes.  
 Like players plac'd to fill a filthy stage,  
 Where change of thoughts one fool to other shews,  
 And all but jests, serve only sorrow's rage. *Sidney.*  
 Certain pantomimi will represent the voices of players of interludes so to life, as you would think they were those players themselves. *Bacon's Natural History.*  
 A player, if left of his auditory and their applause, would straight be out of heart. *Bacon.*  
 Thine be the laurel then, support the stage;  
 Which so declines, that shortly we may see  
 Players and plays reduc'd to second infancy. *Dryden.*  
 His muse had starv'd, had not a piece unread,  
 And by a player bought, supply'd her bread. *Dryden.*  
 4. A mimic.  
 Thus said the player god; and adding art  
 Of voice and gesture, to perform'd his part,  
 She thought, so like her love the shade appears,  
 That Ceyx spake the words. *Dryden.*  
 5. One who touches a musical instrument.  
 Command thy servants to seek out a man, who is a cunning player on the harp. *1 Samuel xvi. 16.*  
 6. A gamester.  
 One who acts in play in any certain manner.  
 The snake bit him fast by the tongue, which therewith began so to rankle and swell, that, by the time he had knocked this foul player on the head, his mouth was scarce able to contain it. *Carew's Survey of Cornwall.*  
**PLA'YFELLOW.** *n. f.* [play and fellow.] Companion in amusement.  
 Inconstant in his choice of his friends, or rather never having a friend but playfellows, of whom, when he was weary, he could no otherwise rid himself than by killing them. *Sidney.*  
 She seem'd still back unto the land to look,  
 And her playfellows aid to call, and fear  
 The dashing of the waves. *Spenser.*  
 Your precious self had not then cross'd the eyes  
 Of my young playfellow. *Shakespeare's Winter's Tale.*  
 Mischance and sorrow go along with you!  
 Heart's discontent and four affliction  
 Be playfellows to keep you company! *Shakespeare.*  
 Sweet playfellows, pray thou for us,  
 And good luck grant thee thy Demetrius. *Shakespeare.*  
 This was the play at which Nero flaked three thousand two hundred and twenty-nine pounds three shillings and four pence upon every cast; where did he find playfellows? *Arbutnot on Coins.*  
**PLAYFUL.** *adj.* [play and full.] Sportive; full of levity.  
 He is scandalized at youth for being lively, and at childhood for being playful. *Addison's Spectator, N° 494.*  
**PLAYGAME.** *n. f.* [play and game.] Play of children.  
 That liberty alone gives the true relish to their ordinary playgames. *Locke.*  
**PLA'YHOUSE.** *n. f.* [play and house.] House where dramatick performances are represented.  
 These are the youths that thunder at a playhouse, and fight for bitten apples. *Shakespeare's Henry VIII.*  
 He hurries me from the playhouse and scenes there, to the bear-garden. *Stillingfleet.*  
 I am a sufficient theatre to myself of ridiculous actions, without expecting company either in a court or playhouse. *Dry.*  
 Shakespeare, whom you and ev'ry playhouse bill  
 Stile the divine. *Pope's Epistles of Horace.*  
**PLA'YPLEASURE.** *n. f.* [play and pleasure.] Idle amusement.  
 He taketh a kind of playpleasure in looking upon the fortunes of others. *Bacon's Essays.*  
**PLAYSOME.** *adj.* [play and some.] Wanton; full of levity.  
**PLAYSOMENESS.** *n. f.* [from playsome.] Wantonness; levity.  
**PLAYTHING.** *n. f.* [play and thing.] Toy; thing to play with.  
 O Castilio! thou hast caught  
 My foolish heart; and like a tender child,  
 That trusts his plaything to another hand,  
 I fear its harm, and fain would have it back. *Orway.*  
 A child knows his nurse, and by degrees the playthings of a little more advanced age. *Locke.*  
 The servants should be hindered from making court to them, by giving them fruit and playthings. *Locke.*  
 O Richard,  
 Would fortune calm her present rage,  
 And give us playthings for our age. *Prior.*

# PLE

Allow him but the plaything of a pen,  
 He ne'er rebels or plots. *Pope.*  
**PLA'YRIGHT.** *n. f.* [play and right.] A maker of plays.  
 He ended much in the character he had liv'd in; and Horace's rule for a play may as well be applied to him as a playwright. *Pope.*  
**PLEA.** *n. f.* [plaid, old French.]  
 1. The act or form of pleading.  
 2. Thing offered or demanded in pleading.  
 The magnificoes have all persuaded with him;  
 But none can drive him from the envious plea  
 Of forfeiture of justice and his bond. *Shakespeare.*  
 3. Allegation.  
 They tow'rd the throne supreme,  
 Accountable, made haste, to make appear  
 With righteous plea, their utmost vigilance. *Milton.*  
 4. An apology; an excuse.  
 The fiend, with necessity,  
 The tyrant's plea, excus'd his devilish deeds.  
 Thou determin'd weakness for no plea. *Milton.*  
 When such occasions are,  
 No plea must serve; 'tis cruelty to spare. *Danham.*  
 Whoever argues in defence of absolute power in a single person, though he offers the old plausible plea, that, it is his opinion, which he cannot help, unless he be convinced, ought to be treated as the common enemy of mankind. *Swift.*  
**TO PLEACH.** *v. a.* [pleffer, Fr.] To bend; to interweave.  
 A word not in use.  
 Would'st thou be window'd in great Rome, and see  
 Thy master thus, with pleacht arms, bending down  
 His corrigible neck. *Shakespeare.*  
 Steal into the pleached bower,  
 Where honey-fuckles ripen'd by the fun,  
 Forbid the fun to enter. *Shakespeare.*  
**TO PLEAD.** *v. n.* [plaid, Fr.]  
 1. To argue before a court of justice.  
 To his accusations  
 He pleaded still not guilty; and alleg'd  
 Many sharp reasons. *Shakespeare's Henry VIII.*  
 O that one might plead for a man with God, as a man pleadeth for his neighbour! *Job. xvi. 21.*  
 Of beauty finging;  
 Let others govern or defend the state,  
 Plead at the bar, or manage a debate. *Granvill.*  
 Lawyers and divines write down short notes, in order to plead or plead. *Watts's Improvement of the Mind.*  
 2. To speak in an argumentative or persuasive way for or against; to reason with another.  
 I am  
 To plead for that, which I would not obtain. *Shakespeare.*  
 Who is he that will plead with me; for now if I hold my tongue, I shall give up the ghost. *Job. xiii. 19.*  
 If nature plead not in a parent's heart,  
 Pity my tears, and pity her desert. *Dryden.*  
 It must be no ordinary way of reasoning, in a man that is pleading for the natural power of kings, and against all compact, to bring for proof an example, where his own account founds all the right upon compact. *Locke.*  
 3. To be offered as a plea.  
 Since you can love, and yet your error see,  
 The same restless power may plead for me,  
 With no less ardour I my claim pursue;  
 I love, and cannot yield her even to you. *Dryden.*  
**TO PLEAD.** *v. a.*  
 1. To defend; to discuss.  
 Will you, we shew our title to the crown?  
 If not, our swords shall plead it in the field. *Shakespeare.*  
 2. To allege in pleading or argument.  
 Don Sebastian came forth to intreat, that they might part with their arms like foldiers; it was told him, that they could not justly plead law of nations, for that they were not lawful enemies. *Spenser on Ireland.*  
 If they will plead against me my reproach, know that God hath overthrown me. *Job xix. 5.*  
 3. To offer as an excuse.  
 I will neither plead my age nor sickness, in excuse of faults. *Dryden.*  
**PLEA'DABLE.** *adj.* [from plead.] Capable to be alleged in plea.  
 I ought to be discharged from this information, because this privilege is pleadable at law.  
**PLEA'DER.** *n. f.* [plaid, Fr. from plead.]  
 1. One who argues in a court of justice.  
 The brief with weighty crimes was charg'd,  
 On which the pleader much enlarg'd. *Swift's Miscel.*  
 2. One who speaks for or against.  
 If you  
 Would be your country's pleader, your good tongue  
 Might stop our countryman. *Shakespeare's Coriolanus.*  
 So fair a pleader any cause may gain. *Dryden.*

PLEADING.

# PLE

**PLEA'DING.** *n. f.* [from plead.] Act or form of pleading.  
 If the heavenly folk should know  
 These pleadings in the court below. *Swift's Miscel.*  
**PLEASANCE.** *n. f.* [plaisance, Fr.] Gaiety; pleasantry; merriment.  
 The lovely pleasance and the lofty pride  
 Cannot exprest be by any art. *Spenser.*  
 Her words she drowned with laughing vain,  
 And wanting grace in utt'ring of the same,  
 That turned all her pleasance to a scoffing game. *F. Queen.*  
 Oh that men should put an enemy into their mouths, to steal away their brains! that we should with joy, pleasance, revel and applause transform ourselves into beasts. *Shakespeare.*  
**PLEASANT.** *adj.* [plaisant, French.]  
 1. Delightful; giving delight.  
 The gods are just, and of our pleasant vices  
 Make instruments to scourge us. *Shakespeare's King Lear.*  
 What most he should dislike, seems pleasant to him;  
 What like, offensive. *Shakespeare's King Lear.*  
 How good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell in unity! *Psalms.*  
 Verdure clad  
 Her universal face with pleasant green. *Milton.*  
 2. Grateful to the senses.  
 Sweeter thy discourse is to my ear,  
 Than fruits of palm-tree pleasant to thirst. *Milton.*  
 3. Good humoured; cheerful.  
 In all thy humours, whether grave or mellow,  
 Thou'rt such a touchy, teasy, pleasant fellow. *Addison.*  
 4. Gay; lively; merry.  
 Let neither the power nor quality of the great, or the wit of the pleasant prevail with us to flatter the vices, or applaud the prophaneness of wicked men. *Rogers's Sermons.*  
 5. Trifling; adapted rather to mirth than use.  
 They, who would prove their idea of infinite to be positive, seem to do it by a pleasant argument, taken from the negation of an end, which being negative, the negation of it is positive. *Locke.*  
**PLEASANTLY.** *adv.* [from pleasant.]  
 1. In such a manner as to give delight.  
 2. Gayly; merrily; in good humour.  
 King James was wont pleasantly to say, that the duke of Buckingham had given him a secretary, who could neither write nor read. *Clarendon.*  
 3. Lightly; ludicrously.  
 Euthyphrus is of opinion, that Ulysses speaks pleasantly to Elpenor. *Broome.*  
**PLEASANTNESS.** *n. f.* [from pleasant.]  
 1. Delightfulness; state of being pleasant.  
 Doth not the pleasantness of this place carry in itself sufficient reward. *Sidney.*  
 2. Gaiety; cheerfulness; merriment.  
 It was refreshing, but composed, like the pleasantness of youth tempered with the gravity of age. *South.*  
 He would fain put on some pleasantness, but was not able to conceal his vexation. *Tillotson.*  
**PLEASANTRY.** *n. f.* [plaisanterie, Fr.]  
 1. Gaiety; merriment.  
 The harshness of reasoning is not a little softened and smoothed by the infusions of mirth and pleasantry. *Addison.*  
 Such kinds of pleasantry are disingenuous in criticism, the greatest masters appear serious and instructive. *Addison.*  
 2. Sprightly saying; lively talk.  
 The grave abound in pleasantries, the dull in repartees and points of wit. *Addison's Spectator, N° 487.*  
**TO PLEASE.** *v. a.* [placeo, Lat. plaire, Fr.]  
 1. To delight; to gratify; to humour.  
 They please themselves in the children of strangers. *If. ii. 6.*  
 Whether it were a whistling wind, or a pleasing fall of water running violently. *Wisdom xvii. 18.*  
 Thou can't not be so pleas'd at liberty,  
 As I shall be to find thou dar'st be free. *Dryden.*  
 Leave such to trifle with more grace and ease,  
 Whom folly pleases, and whose follies please. *Pope.*  
 2. To satisfy; to content.  
 Doctor Pinch  
 Establish him in his true sense again,  
 And I will please you what you will demand. *Shakespeare.*  
 What next I bring shall please  
 Thy wish exactly to thy heart's desire. *Milton.*  
 3. To obtain favour from; to be pleased with, is to approve; to favour.  
 This is my beloved son, in whom I am well pleas'd. *Mat. Gen.*  
 I have seen thy face, and thou wast pleas'd with me. *Gen.*  
 Pickle their state whom God  
 Most favours; who can please him long? *Milton.*  
 4. To be PLEASED. To like. A word of ceremony.  
 Many of our most skilful painters were pleas'd to recommend this author to me, as one who perfectly understood the rules of painting. *Dryden's Dryden.*  
**TO PLEASE.** *v. n.*  
 1. To give pleasure.  
 What pleasing seem'd, for her now pleases more. *Milton.*

# PLE

I found something that was more pleasing in them, than my ordinary productions. *Dryden.*  
 2. To gain approbation.  
 Their wine-offerings shall not be pleasing unto him. *Hefsa.*  
 3. To like; to chuse.  
 Spirits, freed from mortal laws, with ease  
 Assume what sexes and what shapes they please. *Pope.*  
 4. To condescend; to comply. A word of ceremony.  
 Please you, lords,  
 In sight of both our battles we may meet. *Shakespeare.*  
 The first words that I learnt were, to express my desire, that he would please to give me my liberty. *Gulliver.*  
**PLEASER.** *n. f.* [from please.] One that courts favour.  
**PLEASINGLY.** *adv.* [from pleasing.] In such a manner as to give delight.  
 Pleasingly troublesome thought and remembrance have been to me since I left you. *Milton.*  
 Thus to herself she pleasingly began.  
 The end of the art is pleasingly to deceive the eye. *Dryden.*  
 He gains all points, who pleasingly confounds,  
 Surprizes, varies, and conceals the bounds. *Pope.*  
**PLEASINGNESS.** *n. f.* [from pleasing.] Quality of giving delight.  
**PLEASMAN.** *n. f.* [please and man.] A pickthank; an officious fellow.  
 Some carry tale, some pleasmans, some slight zany,  
 That knows the trick to make my lady laugh,  
 Told our intents. *Shakespeare's Love's Labour Lost.*  
**PLEASURABLE.** *adj.* [from please.] Delightful; full of pleasure.  
 Planting of orchards is very profitable, as well as pleasurable. *Bacon.*  
 It affords a pleasurable habitation in every part, and that is the line eclyptick. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*  
 There are, that the compounded fluid drain  
 From different mixtures: to the blended streams,  
 Each mutually correcting each, create  
 A pleasurable medley. *Philips.*  
 Our ill-judging thought  
 Hardly enjoys the pleasurable taste. *Prior.*  
**PLEASURE.** *n. f.* [plaisir, French.]  
 1. Delight; gratification of the mind or senses.  
 Pleasure, in general, is the consequent apprehension of a suitable object, suitably applied to a rightly disposed faculty. *South's Sermons.*  
 A cause of men's taking pleasure in the sins of others, is, that poor spiritdness that accompanies guilt. *South's Sermons.*  
 In hollow caves sweet echo quiet lies;  
 Her name with pleasure once she taught the shore,  
 Now Daphne's dead, and pleasure is no more. *Pope.*  
 2. Loose gratification.  
 Convey your pleasures in a spacious plenty,  
 And yet seem cold. *Shakespeare.*  
 Behold yon dame does shake the head to hear of pleasure's name. *Shakespeare's King Lear.*  
 Not sunk in carnal pleasure. *Milton.*  
 3. Approbation.  
 The Lord taketh pleasure in them that fear him. *Psalms.*  
 4. What the will dictates.  
 Use your pleasure; if your love do not persuade you to come, let not my letter. *Shakespeare's Merch. of Venice.*  
 He will do his pleasure on Babylon. *If. xlviii.*  
 5. Choice; arbitrary will.  
 We ascribe not only effects depending on the natural period of time unto arbitrary calculations, and such as vary at pleasure, but confirm our tenets by the uncertain account of others. *Brown's Vulgar Errors, b. iv.*  
 Half their fleet offends  
 His open side, and high above him shews;  
 Upon the rest at pleasure he descends,  
 And doubly harm'd, he double harm bestows. *Dryden.*  
 Raile tempests at your pleasure. *Dryden.*  
 We can at pleasure move several parts of our bodies. *Locke.*  
 All the land in their dominions being acquired by conquest, was disposed by them according to their pleasure. *Arbutnot.*  
**TO PLEASURE.** *v. a.* [from the noun.] To please; to gratify. This word, though supported by good authority, is, I think, inelegant.  
 Things, thus set in order,  
 Shall further thy harvest, and pleasure thee best. *Tusser.*  
 I count it one of my greatest afflictions, that I cannot pleasure such an honourable gentleman. *Shakespeare.*  
 If what pleases him, shall pleasure you,  
 Fight closer, or good faith you'll catch a blow. *Shakespeare.*  
 When the way of pleasuring and displeasing lieth by the favourite, it is impossible any should be overgreat. *Bacon.*  
 Nothing is difficult to love; it will make a man cross his own inclinations to pleasure them whom he loves. *Tillotson.*  
**PLEASURFUL.** *adj.* [pleasure and full.] Pleasant; delightful. Obsolete.  
 This country, for the fruitfulness of the land and the conveniency of the sea, hath been reputed a very commodious and pleasurable country. *Abbot's Description of the World.*